

MANAGER’S CONFERENCE MINUTES
Portsmouth City Council Meeting on
October 22, 2018
7:05 p.m.

Roll Call showed the following members to be present:

Sean Dunne	1 st Ward
Jo Ann Aeh	2 nd Ward
Kevin E. Johnson	3 rd Ward
Jerrold Albrecht	4 th Ward
Gene Meadows	5 th Ward
Thomas K. Lowe	6 th Ward

Also present was Acting City Manager Sam Sutherland, Auditor M. Trent Williams and City Clerk Diana Ratliff. Solicitor John Haas was absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Closing of City’s Books for FY 2018** - Authorizing the City Auditor to amend appropriations to reflect actual revenues and expenditures in order to balance and close the City’s books for the fiscal year 2018.

Councilman Meadows motioned to accept Alternative #1

There were no questions or comments: VOTE: 6 Ayes – 0 Nays

2. **Livestreaming City Council Meetings** – Councilman Dunne spoke but was not audible, he was discussing the different options for livestreaming the Council meetings. Councilman Meadows stated that the City would probably need its own facebook page, we would need to have an administrator of the page. Acting Mayor Johnson mentioned the cost of \$100.00 per month through Georgian Portraits. It was decided that they would come to the next meeting to speak to Council.

3. **Emergency Text Alert System** – Councilman Dunne spoke about this system and different scenarios. **Lisa Jenkins with Nexus Broadcast Systems** – She stated that they were not only a text message system but also have a web app which will not take up the memory on your phone, and the website was already built but needed revised with current information. They were also working with Patties & Pints, Praises and Sonora’s all local businesses. Councilman Lowe asked the price and she replied that it was \$175 per month for 5,000 messages or \$300 per month for 10,000, incoming messages would be at no cost. Citizens would just need to opt in to the program they wanted. They’ve been in existence since November 2017.

Police Chief Ware spoke about the system that they were interested in called Heads up Community. He liked this program for its ability to do mass notifications and control groups. They needed a way to re-call officers/firefighters in an emergency. He had looked into a platform that accomplished making notifications to the community as well. The program was customizable and they control the inputs and the public could opt in and out. For instance if they sent out a water advisory, it could go to all of the water customers that were willing to opt into it. He said this program was nice because if you’re a parent (who lives 3 hours away) of a Shawnee State student, the program allows them to know what’s going on in the community. He introduced Brian Johnson who works for the company and stated that he was also the Police I.T. support contact. Mr. Johnson said their system is \$300 per month/\$3,600 per year for unlimited messages and they’ve been in existence for 6 years. He said that citizens don’t have to opt in to anything, they would need to download the app onto their phone for the service and in the settings, the citizen would need to decide what area of information they want to receive. They’ve found that people having to give out their name, cellphone number and address was a turn-off for them, so they found this to be much easier for the citizens. The information received on the app can be shared on Social Media (facebook, twitter etc.)

4. **City Cleanup from former Mayor Kalb** – He said that currently the city reacts to the problems of trash around the city and no one was held accountable. He doesn't believe his method would cause any kind of problem or cause a Union grievance because the city hired outside contractors all the time for different city services. He said the contractor would be responsible for all aspects of the program including responding to complaints and actively seeking violations by going up and down alleys and streets, but the city would have to adopt a comprehensive program under the guidance of the City Solicitor and his interpretation of the laws and what we can and cannot do. A fee schedule would need to be developed with set requirements for the documentation and records from the contractor to include notification, verification, dates, times and any correspondence. This information would be submitted to the water billing department for recording of the information in which there would be an Administrative Fee charged. The city would negotiate a deal between the contractor and the transfer station with the terms that the transfer station must be used for disposing of all the items and this would provide a secondary form of documentation of the abatement that was assessed and followed through. The success of this program would be in making the public aware of the new laws, through Council meetings, public hearings, media coverage and notification included in the water bill. There would need to be guidelines and rules for the contractor to follow, it would definitely be a money maker for the contractor. The ultimate responsibility of the trash lies with the property owner and the Judges need to be onboard with the program. In the instance of Renter/Landlord if the renter moves out and leaves behind a bunch of stuff (mattress, broken T.V. etc) it would be the landlord's responsibility to withhold the security deposit that was initially given. The contractor could also be responsible for finding grass/weeds that have grown out of control.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Meadows.

Submitted by: *Diana Ratliff* – City Clerk